

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

July 10, 2014

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Hundreds of Transportation Priorities Included in Finalized List

When Missourians head to the polls on Aug. 5, they will know exactly what their tax dollars will bring to the state if they approve Constitutional Amendment 7. That's because the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission today approved a list of hundreds of transportation projects that represents the commission's commitment to Missourians who want to invest in the state's transportation future.



Commission Chair Stephen Miller discusses the years of work and collaborative efforts to produce the project list. Photo by Cathy Morrison.

"This list is the culmination of years of work, with collaboration from local transportation planners as well as input from thousands of citizens from across the state," said Commission Chair Stephen Miller. "It represents a substantial investment in Missouri's transportation infrastructure – but also means safer roads, more jobs, and a better economy."

The list includes \$4.8 billion in transportation projects. While the majority of work focuses on Missouri's roads and bridges, it also incorporates other modes of transportation.

"One of the most impressive things about this list is the expanse of work it covers and the real, tangible value you can see for your money," said MoDOT Director Dave Nichols. "It includes resurfacing thousands of miles of roads, improving ports, railroads and airports, and even provides additional public transit service throughout rural regions of the state."

Ultimately, the delivery of projects outlined in this priorities list will go a long way toward fixing roads and bridges where Missouri's system is already in bad condition. The end result of this work would affect Missourians in every region

of the state and help meet the goals set forth in last year's long range transportation plan.

The entire transportation improvement list and information about the amendment are available at www.modot.org/movingforward.

On Aug. 5, Missouri voters will decide on Amendment 7, a ballot measure to temporarily raise Missouri's sales tax by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent. All proceeds from the 10-year tax would go toward much-needed transportation improvements across the state. The amendment's provisions include the creation of a project list prior to the election so Missourians can see what their tax dollars would fund.

Commission Summary - July 9

by Bob Brendel

Legislative Committee – Vice chairman Joe Carmichael said the commission continues to monitor the Highway Trust Fund situation as it approaches insolvency sometime in August. "Time is running out for Congress to find a solution," he said. He also noted that Governor Nixon recently signed Senate Bill 818 which expands the use of the State Aviation Trust Fund which offers more options for economic development.

MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees – Vice chairman Carmichael reported that as of June 30, 2014, the balance in the retirement fund had risen to an all-time high of \$1.9 billion. "The plan is still under funded, but we're moving in the right direction," he said.

Director's Report – Director Dave Nichols also spoke about the looming insolvency of the HTF citing a letter he received July 1 from U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "The USDOT will have to take some significant actions in August if a solution is not found," Nichols said. "We all are hopeful that it's at least taken care of temporarily."

He also discussed the flooding MoDOT crews are dealing with, primarily in the Northeast District along the Mississippi River. As of Tuesday, 10 state routes and bridges at Louisiana and Quincy were closed because of high water.

He concluded his report by detailing the process that had developed the 10-year project list associated with Constitutional Amendment 7. "I'm proud of the robust discussion we've had and the hard work that our MoDOT team has done." He also noted the job creation impacts MoDOT projects create. "These projects don't just give people a job, they start them on the development of a career," he said. "There is a great return on the investment we make in these construction projects."



Consideration of Bids – State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter reported on the bid opening of June 20, when MoDOT received 45 bids on 15 calls. The Commission awarded all to the low bidder. Schroeter noted that virtually all of the work on these projects was to take care of the system and that it was an extremely small letting for the first month of the new fiscal year.

[Click above to watch a video clip of the Director's Report.](#)

Consideration of Proposals for US 69 Missouri River Bridge – Following a recommendation by Kansas City Assistant District Engineer Brian Kidwell, the Commission selected American Bridge Company as the design-build contractor who will replace the bridge that connects Platte County, Missouri with Wyandotte County, Kansas.

PROJECT LIST HIGHLIGHTS

- 815 total projects
- 4 major river crossings
- 400+ bridge replacements/rehabilitations
- 3200+ miles of resurfacing, including 750 miles of new shoulders
- 31 interchange improvements
- 7 port improvements
- 14 rail improvements
- 24 airport improvements
- 71 sidewalk/non-motorized improvements
- Public transportation improvements in 114 counties and the City of St. Louis

Constitutional Amendment 7 Project List – Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger described for the Commission what had transpired during the public comment period that began when the draft project list was released on June 13. Since then, MoDOT held 43 open house public meetings, had numerous discussions with community leaders and received more than 1,200 comments.

He noted that every online comment was answered and then was shared with the MoDOT team and with planning partners. Because the lists were fiscally constrained by region, “If you make a change in response to public input, it comes with a cost,” he said. Only a small percentage of projects changed from the original list, but those that did fell into three categories:

- More project specifics were developed where previously dollars were only identified for a general purpose, like public transportation,
- Local partners offered match money to keep their projects on the list, and
- Regional leaders agreed to remove projects because they no longer considered them to be vitally important.

Public Comment Period – Eight people addressed the Commission about Constitutional Amendment 7: Yaphett El-Amin, MOKAN Construction Contractors Assistance Center; Bob Gilbert, Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce; Brent Hugh, Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation; Roger Young, Audrain County

Commission; Russell Runge, City of Mexico; Sherri McIntyre, City of Kansas City on behalf of Major Sly James; Sheila Tracy, Northland Chamber of Commerce; Adolphus Pruitt, NAACP of St. Louis.

Press Conference - A press conference was held immediately following the Commission meeting. [Click here to see a video clip - http://youtu.be/x610EHXqmjc.](http://youtu.be/x610EHXqmjc)

DMS Get Sassy to Send a Message

by Patrick Wood

MoDOT uses electronic message boards called Dynamic Messaging Signs (DMS) to provide needed information to motorists. These signs are designed to display weather-related alerts, road closures and slow moving operations ahead.



MoDOT is using DMS boards to share safety messages in a sassy new way to attract attention.

When the DMS boards are not showing emergency or lane closure information, they display safety reminders. Each month new messages are created to focus on topics relevant to that month, such as DWI enforcement during summer holiday weekends or teen safety messages during prom and graduation season.

Recently the Massachusetts Department of Transportation displayed DMS board that simply said “Changing Lanes? Use Yah Blinkah.” This humorous reminder for drivers to use their turn signals to indicate when they are changing lanes became very popular not only in the media, but also with Massachusetts drivers who enjoyed the play on the local accent.

The idea of using humor as a reminder for common road etiquette was not ignored by MoDOT. Missouri DMS boards have been given a hint of sarcasm and humor to resonate with Missouri motorists, and they are noticing. Many Missouri drivers are going to social media and stating their approval of these new signs with comments such as “Shout out to MoDOT for the entertaining, informative, signage on my drive from Nebraska to STL! Favorite: Not buckled up? Seriously?”



To share these messages with Missourians who may not drive by a DMS board regularly, MoDOT has started posting these DMS messages once a week on Facebook. The image and the accompanying message are commonly being seen by anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 people.

What do you think of these new humorous messages? Like MoDOT on Facebook and let us know on the next DMS post! Do you have a creative message for driver safety reminders? Send your ideas to Linda.WilsonHorn@modot.mo.gov.

“A Vision for Missouri’s Future” Wins Award for Publication Excellence

by Tammy Wallace

MoDOT's "A Vision for Missouri's Future" for Missouri's long range transportation plan won the 2014 APEX Award of Excellence in the special purpose campaigns, programs and plans category.



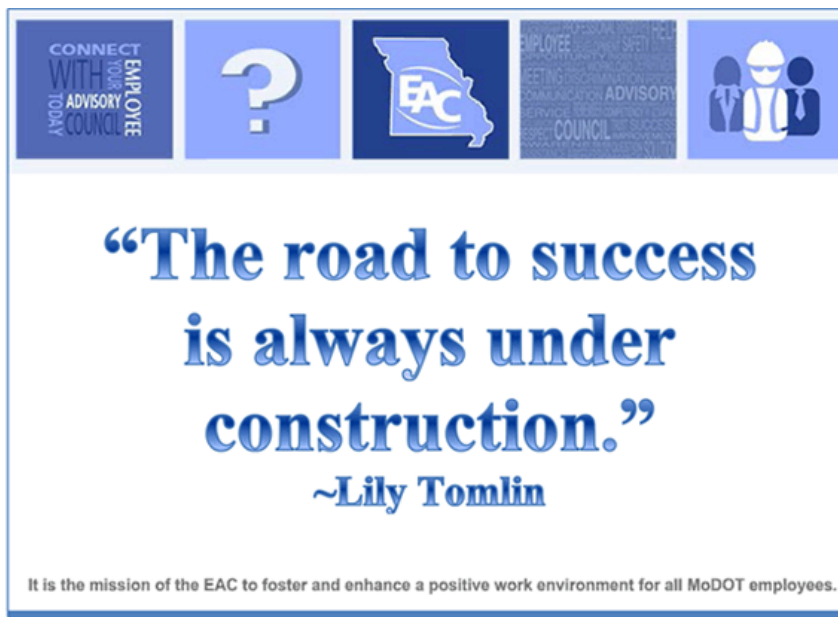
Missouri's long range plan for transportation was formed by conversations with thousands of Missourians. Based on those conversations, goals for taking care of our system, safety, economic development and connection and choices were established, and strategies were developed to move Missouri closer to those goals.

The award winning entry included multiple videos, testimonials, an executive summary, a technical report, what we heard from Missourians and how we are going to get there - <http://missourionthefuture.org>.

APEX (Awards for Public Excellence), is an annual awards program that recognizes excellence in publications work by professional communicators. The awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. The Award of Excellence recognizes exceptional entries in each of the 122 subcategories.

The Vision for Missouri's Future was led by MoDOT Special Projects Coordinator Bob Brendel and the Customer Relations division.

This was the twenty-sixth year for the awards program.



SharePoint Utilization Team Looks at Standardization, Full Adoption

by Matt Hiebert

SharePoint has been a part of the MoDOT work process for several years, with divisions and districts adopting the tool in different ways and at different levels.

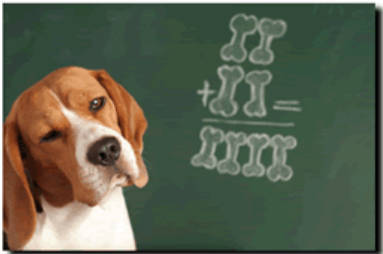
To standardize elements and provide direction for this important collaboration platform, the SharePoint Utilization Team was formed this spring.

"The team is reviewing every SharePoint site out there," said team leader Mollie LeBlanc. "We're looking for best practices and trying to find out what works and what doesn't. When the team is finished, we'll make recommendations to the executive and senior management teams on look and feel, folder structure, navigation, naming conventions and other functions."

There have been other SharePoint adoption teams in the past but this one differs on several points. First and foremost, the team is looking at SharePoint as a whole rather than by individual functions, such as collaboration or document management. Also the team is comprised of statewide members from various districts and divisions giving it a broader perspective.

"MoDOT's been using SharePoint for a while now, but not to the level we could," LeBlanc said. "SharePoint is a great tool for both communication and collaboration. Many divisions and districts have adopted the system wholeheartedly while others are still trying to find their way."

SharePoint General Training
and
How To's Page!



We need to come up with a utilization strategy to help everyone.”

The team meets face-to-face once a month. Information on its approach, scope and progress can be found on SharePoint here: <http://sharepoint/help/spug/training/> (works for employees only).

New Changes for Computer Passwords

The next time your computer password expires and you’re making that decision on what your new password will be, you’ll need to review these new password requirements. This is the password you use to log onto your computer each day.



Here are the new minimum requirements:

The password must be a minimum of 8 characters. It must contain characters from three of the following four categories:

- Capital letter (A through Z)
- Lowercase letter (a through z)
- Number (0 through 9)
- Special character (non-alphabetic characters, for example, !, \$, #, %, etc.)

The password can NOT contain your user ID, or parts of your full name that exceeds two consecutive characters. Passwords will expire every 90 days. You can’t repeat your last 10 passwords.

Please contact the Service Desk if you have any questions - (573) 751-5000, (877) 663-6843 or

helpdesk@modot.mo.gov.

July Safety Video Gets "Back to Basics"

by Tammy Wallace

The newest Back to Basics safety video shows Tom Rutledge, Winona maintenance, and Mike Arnold, Poplar Bluff maintenance, demonstrating how to perform a circle check and the proper backing techniques when using a spotter.

Backing is one of our most common tasks and has a high incident rate, so taking that little extra time to do it correctly could keep you from having an unwanted incident. Also remember, all employees using any state vehicle are required to perform a circle check.

This new video shows exactly how these procedures should be done. Check it out - <http://youtu.be/fLty6Rpksl>, and watch for next month's Back to Basics video.

Supervisors are asked to share the video during morning safety discussions.



Click above to see the how to use a spotter for backing safely, and how to perform the important circle check.

July 4 Statistics

by Patrick Wood

The Fourth of July can be one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to substance-impaired crashes.

“Last year 19 people were killed in traffic crashes over the Fourth of July holiday," said Leanna Depue, executive committee chair for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.

This year's Fourth of July weekend showed a decrease in the traffic fatalities from the previous year. During the holiday weekend, six traffic fatalities occurred on Missouri roads.

While even one death is one too many, this is an improvement from last year's holiday weekend.

Fatality Update



What's Happening



MoDOT Leadership Q&A Session

During the spring DOMInno meeting a Q&A session was held between MoDOT executive leadership, Commissioner Carmichael and MoDOT staff. Those questions and answers were documented and have been placed on SharePoint for all employees to review.

The Q&A covers a variety of topics like Amendment 7, program delivery, salaries and hiring, just to name a few.

Click on the link and select Executive Leadership Panel Discussion Q&A - <http://team/sites/DOMInno/SitePages/Home.aspx> (works for employees only).



Service Award Information Coming Your Way

Attention 2014 Service Award Recipients! Starting July 21, 2014 the service award vendor will begin mailing out your brochure packet with the gifts you are eligible to receive. Please keep your eyes open for this packet to arrive at your home address. Instructions for placing your order will be included in the packet.



Chat With The Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post. This week he talks about the Commission approving the amendment 7 project list - [Chat with the Chief](#).



July is UV Safety Month

Summer is in full swing and the ultraviolet rays from the sun can be dangerous. Be sure to read Coventry's July safety newsletter on preventing skin cancer. The flier offers sun exposure tips, how to treat sunburns, and skin cancer prevention tools and resources. It is located on the Central Office page of Connections – [CO Page](#)

Guard Your Health with Preventative Care

When it comes to your health, what you don't know can hurt you. Medical tests and screenings can help you find problems early when they are easier to treat. Vaccines and immunizations are also important for health protection. Read more in Coventry's preventative care flier on the Central Office page of Connections – [CO Page](#)



Sports Authority 20 Percent Savings for Employees

The Sports Authority is offering a special discount to MoDOT employees as a thank you for everything you do. The special offer is for 20 percent off your entire purchase from now through July 27.

[Click here to print a coupon to present to the cashier at checkout - 20 Percent Off!](#)

July Service Anniversaries

40 Years

John B. Christy - NW
Kurt A. Spindler - NE

35 Years

Mark E. Sprock - NE

30 Years

Kenny Glover - NE
Ervin H. Fackler - NE
Becky Lou Wheatley - KC
Milton Norris Wright - KC
Wendy Lee Brooks - SL
Lester R. Shears - SL
David Randall Shoemake - SL
Mackie Lee Gaddis - SE
Sherry K. Grannemann - CO

25 Years

Toni F. Terry - KC
Brenda M. Dudenhoeffer - CD
Phillip Allen Wilson - SL
Randy L. Garrison - SW
Douglas E. Foley - SW
Wilma J. DeGraffenreid - CO
Regina R. Wilson - CO
Karmen S. Stockman - CO

20 Years

Debra A. Malone - NE
Sherri L. McGregor - KC
Mike L. Sanders - KC
Travis N. Jones - KC
Rocky Dale Majors - KC
Kenny James Krieg - CD
Bruce D. Volkart - CD
Charles W. Brandes - CD
Ronald Lee Kuhn - SW
Monty B. Hawks - SW
Richard Keith Heckendorn - SE
Kevin W. Wegener - CO
Melinda K. Grace-Beasley - CO
Donald R. Hilt - CO
Matthew J. Davis - CO

15 Years

Marion Lee Pryor - NW
Brian M. Rosenthal - NW
Gary D. Hart - NW
Dennis R. Mathews - NE
Daniel L. Koch - NE
Ervin J. Sims - KC
Gale Lynn Garner - CD
Travis Alan Tomson - CD
Daniel David Weaver - CD
Dale S. Crane - SL
Robert J. Hawkins - SL
Robert Patrick Ray - SL
Jermyn Johnson - SL
Robin Kay Larose - SW
Larry J. Davis - SE
Gilbert W. Scherer - SE
Donnie A. Crisp - SE
Lucille Frances Goff - CO

10 Years

Rodney W. Messner - NW
Allen Cockriel - NW
Darrin G. Garrett - NW
Richard Lee Detienne - NE
Robert L. Adkisson - NE
Kerry A. Harvey - NE
Travis J. Teter - KC
Varnice Allen - KC
Scott Matthew Thurston - KC
Jesse Alvin Dunkle - KC
Anthony C. Marzucio - CD
Heather M. Copeland - SL
James W. Feeney - SL
Dennis H. Kopp - SL
Christine E. Scholz - SL
Charles Larry Hawkins - SL
Kevin R. Wildhaber - SL
Dennis G. Heidlage - SW
David Ray Leonard - SW
Matthew Logan Sperry - SW
Jack Steven Pate - SW
Wayne B. DeBrock - SE
Brian Lee Masson - SE
Derrick J. Norris - SE
Brisson James Wallace - SE
Richard Patrick Rahe - CO

5 Years

Corey David Burton - NE
Rodney D. Whittle - CD
Caleb Phillip Foster - SL
Stacy A. Hoener - SL
Belay K. Nerea - SL
Michael P. Preis - SL
Melissa A. Crowley - SE
Chase Von Robins - SE
Enos W. Criddle - SE
Edward D. Benfield - SE
Devin M. Harper - SE
Kevin Tyler Arthaud - CO

*Information Provided and
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David B. Nichols, Director
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Jefferson City, MO 65102

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What Employees Should Know

Over the past few weeks we’ve shared information with employees through Connections and MoDOT Now to help us all better understand the impacts of Amendment 7. If you haven’t yet taken the time, here’s another chance to review the key information.

While it is not our job to advocate for the amendment, or tell people how to vote, we do have a responsibility to help people understand the need for additional transportation funding and the benefits it provides. It’s about the safety of Missourians, our infrastructure and the economy of the state.

Constitutional Amendment 7

- Is a ¾-cent sales tax (not charged on food, prescription medicine or gasoline).
- A tax that is temporary for 10 years.
- It generates about \$540 million per year.
- It can be used for any transportation purpose.
- No tolls or fuel tax increase can take place during the 10-year period.
- A project list showing all the projects that will be funded should the amendment pass has been approved by the Commission.
- The complete project list and information about the amendment can be found on the website - <http://www.modot.org/movingforward/>

What Role Can Employees Play?

Employees need to know the basics listed above, and be willing to help the people understand what's on the project list. Remember, talk about what you know, your personal experiences as a MoDOT employees.

Here’s the three things you can tell your neighbor:

1. Everyone benefits from transportation.
2. Our roads and bridges are deteriorating. We can’t keep up with the needs.
3. When we make improvement to our roads and bridges we save lives with the things we do.

Protect Your Skin from UV Rays



In summer people flock to swimming pools, lakes, and beaches to soak up the sun in spite of all the warnings about sun damage. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). One type of skin cancer, melanoma, is the deadliest form of cancer. The CDC states that 65-90 percent of melanomas are caused by exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays.

July is UV Safety Month. Click on the Coventry’s safety flier and read this important information so you can take steps this month to protect your skin and prevent skin cancer - [Sun Safety](#).

Guard Your Health With Preventative Care

When it comes to your health, what you don’t know can hurt you. Medical tests and screenings can help you find problems

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early when they are easier to treat. Vaccines and immunizations are also important for health protection.

Coventry Health Care wants to help you make the most of your health and benefits. That's why we are giving you some recommendations for adults from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Be sure to talk to your health care provider about the tests and immunizations that are right for you. Ask when you should have them. Click on the flier for all the details - [Preventative Care](#).

Central Office Happenings



Commission meeting attendees review Moving Forward displays and materials in the Central Office lobby. Photos by Cathy Morrison.

Commission Meeting Photos

Photos of Wednesday's Commission meeting and of attendees viewing the Moving Forward displays and materials in the Central Office lobby can be found on MoDOT's flickr site - [Commission](#)



MEE Zone Event

Fad Diets

Tuesday, July 22
2 – 3 p.m.
Central Office HR Training Room B, 601 West Main
Or via video conference

This month's MEE Zone event features Damien Motley from the Capitol Region Medical Center's Healthplex. Damien will talk with us about Fad diets—why they might not be the best choice for you on your path to healthy and what might be a better approach weight loss. There will be time for you to ask any questions at the end of his presentation.

Space is limited for the class at Central Office, so check with your supervisor. You can sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#). To attend in person, hit the Select button next to the course title Fad Diets - Central Office. If you are attending via video conference, please choose Fad Diets – District Attendance (VC). In the upper right corner, click Enroll in this Class.

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

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Bring Your Child To Work Day

On June 19, the Northwest District's annual Bring Your Child To Work Day, held at the Chillicothe facility, had 59 children and 41 adults participate in activities such as sifting through sand and other materials, breaking cylinders, using survey equipment, climbing on big trucks and much more! Thanks to all the volunteers who coordinated activities or demos and to the Employees' Association, District One Credit Union and Horizons Credit Union who provided lunch for everyone.

Congratulations go to Construction Project Office Assistant Tammy Meneely and Area Engineer Tonya Lohman for planning such a successful event. As you can tell by the pictures below, a great time was had by all!



Barrel Bob was available for photos throughout the day.



Workers on the Chillicothe lot have several reminders to buckle up, thanks to the efforts of attendees.



One of the indoor activities was a bridge building computer program.



Cameron Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Correy Miller helps his daughter Jaden with the bridge building program.



An obstacle course was set up for attendees, including these cones, a culvert and the rock pile. The fastest in each group to make it through the course won a prize.



It's not every day you get to run through culverts!



Children got to try on safety gear in the wash bay.



...and see how reflective it is for night operations.



Chillicothe Maintenance Supervisor Todd Roundles was blindfolded and guided only by a walkie talkie operated by his daughter.



Equipment Technician Supervisor Garrett Gillespie joined in for the tricycle work zone activity.

Culvert Washes Out In Nodaway County



These cones protect motorists from a potential hazard that cannot be easily seen on this stretch of Route J in Nodaway County.



Just one day before, crews from King City Maintenance had replaced this culvert, but six inches of rainfall overnight washed out a good portion of their work. Thankfully, the rain did not move the tube and they were able to get it repaired quickly.

District Office Blood Drive



On July 1, a blood drive was held at the District Office. Before donating, each person filled out a questionnaire and went through a preliminary screening. Pictured above are Senior Maintenance Worker Jenny Finch and Maintenance Supervisor Joe Chadwick.



Maintenance Crew Leader Curt Schleicher even wore his PPE to donate! In the background are Senior Right of Way Specialist Megan Atha and Senior Pavement Specialist Chris Cole.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Northeast District

Flood Waters Impact Routes in the Northeast



Several roads have been closed in the Northeast District over the last week due to flooding. Click on the image above to view the affects the water has had on roads.

This last week has proven to be somewhat challenging for areas in the Northeast District. With Iowa receiving an abundance of rain, the rivers have shared that rain with the Northeast District in the form of flood waters.

Several routes in the district have been closed over the last few days and will remain closed for an indefinite amount of time. The Memorial Bridge in West Quincy and the Champ Clark Bridge at Louisiana, were two of the closures that occurred.

“Our crews monitored the rising waters and worked with the neighboring Illinois Department of Transportation to determine when the roads needed to be closed,” said Paula Gough, district engineer. “We will continue to monitor the flooded areas, and get the roads opened back up as soon as possible,” she added.



Greg Price, maintenance supervisor, was out fixing road closure signs that were blown around during a storm last Sunday evening. The storm brought about two more inches of rain to the Hannibal area. He is pictured here on MO 79 south of Hannibal, which is closed due to flooding.

Interns Gain Experience

This summer, seven interns in the Northeast District are getting a real-world, hands on education about MoDOT and what it is like to work in the transportation and construction industry. They have attended the 2014 Internship Conference held at Lincoln University, where they acquired knowledge about what employers look for in individuals, how to get the most of out the internship as well as other interesting aspects of MoDOT. They also participated in some hands on networking activities.



**Aaron Deweese - mechanic
intern at Macon Maintenance**



Joe Harris - intern for Traffic



Brandon Colbert - intern for Traffic



Nathan Love - intern for Survey



**Kallie St. Clair - intern for
Customer Relations**



**Katie Miller - intern for Human
Resources and Risk Management**



Jeff Niemeyer - intern for Traffic

Around the District...



**Crews began mowing minor routes this week, after
completing the major routes last week.**



**Pictured is the Mark Twain Casino in LaGrange during
the flooding. The casino boat actually is not on the
river, but was built on land. But by looking at this
picture, it apparently can float!**



Sealing operations are underway around the Northeast District. Above is a picture of work being done in Marion County.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Kansas City District

TMA Protects Employees From Dangerous Semi Strike

On June 25, one of our Truck Mounted Attenuator (TMA) trucks was involved in a serious crash last week on I-435 SB south of Front Street.

Kansas City Maintenance crews were setting up a lane drop for the bridge inspection crew and had two TMA's protecting the crew on foot who were placing channelizers. A semi pulling a car hit the back of the TMA, completely collapsing it. There were no skid marks from the semi.

Without the TMA protecting the MoDOT crew on foot, they may have been seriously injured. The collision moved our vehicle over 100 feet. This is a great example of why keeping the appropriate buffer zone is so important.

The bad news is the driver of the semi sustained serious injuries. The good news is that Kansas City team member, Nelson Jordan, who was operating the TMA was treated and released from the hospital.



See more photos from the [TMA strike on the Kansas City Flickr site](#).

Kansas City District Releases Regional Priorities List for Amendment 7

On July 9, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved a list of transportation projects that invest in the state's transportation future. The total list includes \$4.8 billion in transportation projects. While the majority of work focuses on Missouri's roads and bridges, it also incorporates other modes of transportation.

"We will change the landscape in the Kansas City Region within a decade with the almost \$900 million worth of projects on this list," said Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec. "All the projects reflect what Missourians told us they want done: taking care of the transportation system, keeping travelers safe, investing in projects that spur economic growth, creating jobs and giving Missourians better transportation choices. We've worked extensively with our transportation partners and others to make our potential transportation dollars stretch even further by leveraging with local funds."

Delivering the projects outlined in this priorities list will go a long way toward fixing roads and bridges where Missouri's system is already in bad condition. The end result of this work would affect Missourians in every region of the state and help meet the goals set forth in last year's long range transportation plan.

The 48 projects in the Kansas City Region will make improvements in all nine counties and include urban and rural road and bridge upgrades as well as significant transit investment projects, bicycle/pedestrian and freight transportation improvements. Just a few of the specific projects include:



- replacing the Route 169 Broadway Bridge over the Missouri River in Kansas City,
- adding lanes and improving bridges on I-435 from Kansas to I-49,
- adding lanes to I-70 from the Blue Ridge Cut Off to I-470 in Kansas City,
- providing a fixed funding contribution for the Kansas City Streetcar, and
- extending the Katy Trail into Kansas City.

Review the [final list online](#).

Culvert Replacement: Kansas City Crews at Work

Going on a road trip can be fun. That was exactly the experience for members of the Customer Relations team on Tuesday, July 9. The team will be hitting the road several times in the next few weeks for a friendly meet and greet with MoDOT workers at various maintenance facilities. The goal is to showcase all the great work our crews perform every single day. One of the stops included a scheduled culvert replacement repair in Lafayette County.

We ventured onto Route O where we met up with a three-man crew. We learned that it takes four to six hours to complete a culvert repair, depending on the size. One of the crew members Chris West, was operating a backhoe to unearth ground for the new pipe, while the old pipe, with its visible cracks and covered in mud, sat off to the side of the road.

Once West was done with his task the crew would be able to install the new pipe. In all, it would take a new pipe, a load of gravel and a load of asphalt to complete the job.

Check out more photos of [Kansas City crews at work on the Kansas City Flickr site](#).



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Comments & Suggestions

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Mayes Featured on Cover of NSC Magazine

Central District Senior Maintenance Worker Melanie Mayes was featured on the July cover of the National Safety Council's *Safety and Health* magazine.

Mayes, a worker at the Williamsburg maintenance facility, also appeared in featured photos inside the magazine for an article about employers needing to keep women in mind when purchasing personal protection equipment.

MoDOT's Cathy Morrison was the photographer for the cover shot and the photos in the article.

To see Mayes' photos and read the informative article about what women and employers should look for when choosing personal protection equipment visit: <http://bit.ly/1kFd5GG>



Customer Sends Compliment to District Shed

Central District customer Elizabeth Rowden recently sent a complimentary hand-written note to the workers at the Vienna maintenance shed thanking them for all of their hard work.

Rowden wrote to the Vienna Crew:

"Finally, I'm getting a note to you all to say thank you for all you do! The mowed right of way looks great! I really appreciate the trash pick up south of my driveway earlier this spring. The terrain there is a little too rough for me to manage myself. Also, I very much appreciated the nice job down on my driveway entrance/culvert in the past. And of course, thanks for all the snow removal on Highway 63, etc."

We'd also like to send a big thank you to all of our district maintenance personnel for their hard work and their ability to provide great customer service.

Vienna MoDOT Crew!
Finally, I'm getting a note to you all to say "thank you" for all you do!
The mowed right of way looks great!
I really appreciated the trash pick up south of my driveway earlier this spring. The terrain there is a little too rough for me to manage myself.
Also, I very much appreciated the nice job done on my driveway entrance/culvert in the past.
And, of course, thanks for the winter snow removal on Hwy 63, etc.
Sincerely,
Elizabeth Rowden

Moving Forward Open House Meetings

Central District Construction and Materials



Manager Patty Lemongelli (far right) talks with two attendees of the Moving Forward Open House meeting in Rolla on June 26.



Area Engineer Bob Lynch (center) has a conversation with attendees of the Moving Forward Open House meeting in Osage Beach on June 25.

Around the District ...



MoDOT recently conducted child safety seat checks at Potosi and St. James to instruct motorists on the proper way to install children's car seats.

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St. Louis District Holds Number One Spot in MoDOT 100 Mile Challenge

by Shaunda White

Earlier this year, Governor Nixon and the first lady launched the 100 Missouri Miles challenge urging all Missourians to follow them and complete 100 miles of physical activity by the end of the year. Since that challenge has launched, a group of St. Louis district employees have taken it to heart. Some have already exceeded the 100 mile goal and others are just a few miles short, but none of them have intentions on stopping any time soon.

The statewide MoDOT 100 Mile Challenge results as of July 3 were as follows:

District/Office	Participants	Miles	Standings
Central District	29	2413	7th
Central Office	81	7060	2nd
Kansas City District	33	3760	5th
Northeast District	16	1549	8th
Northwest District	31	3454	6th
Southeast District	54	4054	4th
Southwest District	46	5682	3rd
St. Louis District	39	7310	1st
Total	329	35,282	

To date, more than 40 St. Louis district employees have signed up and started logging their miles as a group effort on the 100 Mile Challenge website. So far, the St. Louis district mileage total has increased to nearly 8,000 miles logged.

“I have a passion for living a healthy lifestyle and this challenge is another great way to enhance it. It makes me feel good to see a lot of my co-workers taking on and exceeding a challenge such as this as well,” said Wesley Stephen, district planning manager.

The St. Louis district has also started a monthly “Healthy Happy Hour” to encourage participation. The Healthy Happy Hours consists of preplanned gatherings where employees and their families/friends meet at a specific park and walk/run together.

“These Healthy Happy Hours are an excellent way to get together with co-workers, family, and friends while promoting a healthy habit and having fun at the same time,” said Mollie LeBlanc, assistant to the district engineer.

Participants are not limited to just walking. They can run, bike, paddle or even roll and anybody can participate. The challenge continues through the end of the year and there is still time to sign up and start logging progress. For more details or to sign up, please follow this link: <http://100missourimiles.com/>



Some St. Louis district employees use portions of their lunch breaks to accumulate miles for the 100 Mile MoDOT Challenge.

St. Louis Maintenance Worker Named Safety Employee for May

by Shaunda White

Lester Shears, a senior maintenance worker from the Broadway building, received safety recognition because of his non-stop commitment for more than 30 years of ensuring that his co-workers make it home safely every day.



Lester Shears (center) receives his PPE bag and safety employee of the month certificate at the SL staff meeting on July 1.

Shears promotes the importance of safety by example. He constantly reminds his co-workers to wear their seatbelts and PPE, and he makes sure that each piece of equipment is always in proper working order.

“Being a new employee, Mr. Shears has been a great help with my understanding of safety, PPE and how to stay alert out in the field,” said co-worker, Darryl Stapleton.

Another co-worker, Harold Tatum stated, “Safety begins with Lester!”

Shears was nominated by not just one, but eight of his co-workers from the Broadway maintenance facility. He also received a safety PPE bag, two hours of paid time off and an Employee of the Month Certificate for his diligence in keeping safety a number one priority.

For more info

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Southwest District at Work



MOWING – Anderson Maintenance Crew Leader Cody Sanny (left) and Anderson Maintenance Worker Tim Feurt mow the median along I-49 near the McDonald/Newton county line. (Photo/David Mitchell)



STRATEGY – Greenfield Senior Maintenance Worker Jeff Barnhouse (in backhoe) and Greenfield Maintenance Crew Leader Rockey Garner discuss how to clear a section of drainage ditch along Route 97 in Lockwood. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Summer Safety Challenge Is Paying Off

by David Mitchell

Southwest District maintenance employees are in a competition with each other, and their safety is on the line.

This summer, more than 500 workers throughout the District’s 29 maintenance buildings are competing to see which building has the safest employees as part of the Summer Safety Challenge.

“It’s in line with our ‘Safety Begins with Me’ effort,” said District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton. “We’re putting more emphasis on the summer, because we tend to have more incidents in the summer.”

Between May and August, maintenance workers will track safety in four categories: backing incidents, overhead incidents (i.e., trees, power lines, etc.), injuries (incidents requiring medical attention) and at-fault fleet incidents.

Middleton said the goal is zero incidents in any of those categories. While there were no backing or overhead incidents in May and June, there were five incidents sending employees to the doctor and three at-fault fleet incidents.

That’s an improvement over this time last summer. In May and



The use of spotters to watch for overhead hazards is an area of emphasis for the District.

June of 2013, there were seven incidents involving injuries, seven backing incidents and no overhead incidents. The district did not begin tracking at-fault fleet incidents until 2014.

“We’re doing extremely well so far,” Middleton said. “The injuries weren’t very significant, but we want to keep safety our top priority.”

If workers at a maintenance building go all four months without an incident, those employees will get a barbecue lunch cooked for them, provided and prepared by the District Maintenance Leadership Team.



So far, 24 of the District’s 29 maintenance buildings are still in the running.

If a Maintenance Superintendent’s area (there are 4-6 buildings in each Superintendent’s area) can go the entire four months without an incident, each building will get one of the new dump trucks purchased by the District and delivered later this year.

Through June, the Superintendent areas of Mark McCoy and Johnny Matthews were still perfect.

" At the end of the summer, the real measure of whether the Safety Challenge is a success is if everyone goes home safely every day at the end of their shift," Middleton said.

Johnson Family ‘Overwhelmed’ by Support After Crash Seriously Injures Daughters

by David Mitchell

“It was the worst thing I’ve been in.”

That’s how Buffalo Maintenance Crew Leader Shannon Johnson describes what it was like getting the call from his wife, Lori, that their two daughters were seriously hurt in a crash on Route 65 in Dallas County the afternoon of June 11.

He and his crew were inspecting Dallas County Route DD, planning for future patching operations, when he got the call.

“I got there just in time to see them in the helicopter taking them to the hospital,” Shannon said.

According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, a driver of a tractor trailer truck apparently fell asleep at the wheel while driving southbound on Route 65 near Urbana. The truck ran off the right side of the road. The driver overcorrected and crossed back across the highway, landing on the SUV driven by Shannon’s oldest daughter, Jessica.

The girls were on their way home to Urbana from trip to Buffalo when the crash occurred.

Jessica and her sister, Morgan, were seriously hurt with multiple broken bones and were taken to a hospital in Springfield. Jessica also had some mini strokes.

After seeing the vehicle his daughters were in after the crash, Shannon said it’s amazing anyone survived.

When word got out, Angela Reed knew she had to do something to help. She is a nurse who works with Jessica at Lake Regional Hospital in Osage Beach. Angela’s husband is a cousin to the injured girls.

“I really wanted to do something for the family,” Angela said. “Not just for the family, but also to show support from the community for the family.”

Angela is the daughter of Preston Senior Maintenance Worker Robin LaRose.

Angela, Robin and others put together a benefit for the Johnson's in the space of two weeks – complete with a brisket dinner, auction, fireworks and t-shirt sales. Many of the items needed for the event were donated by area businesses, families and friends.



Morgan Johnson and her aunt, Kimie Johnson, share a smile during fireworks at Skyline School June 28. (Photo/Johnson Family)

Despite stormy weather on June 28, the day of the benefit, an estimated crowd of 300 people turned out at Skyline School.

It was a huge success. More than 500 t-shirts alone were sold.



Part of an estimated crowd of 300 people at the Johnson Family Benefit auction June 28 at Skyline School. (Photo/Johnson Family)

Homemade pies were selling for as much as \$50 at auction and every time an auction item sold, “the crowd would explode with applause,” Robin said.

Robin is not surprised by all of that. It’s a very tight knit community.

“Family ties are really deep around here,” she said.

“Our family has been overwhelmed with support from the community and the MoDOT family,” Shannon said. “Our little community is pretty tight. You always get the help you need.”

Shannon said his daughters are doing well but still have a long road to recovery ahead of them. Morgan, 14, is home and about to begin outpatient therapy.

Jessica, 20, is recovering in a rehab hospital south of Springfield. It will likely be several more weeks before she can come home, and it will probably be another 12 weeks before she can walk, according to her father.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southeast District

Communicating Work Zones with Pilot Cars

A pilot car continuously drives back and forth through a work zone to help guide traffic through a complex, one-way work zone. The more crossroads, lane changes, equipment crossings and other obstacles in a work zone, the more beneficial pilot cars have proven.

However, one of the issues is that residents living on side roads often need to enter the work zone and must know to wait for the pilot car. Luckily, keeping the local residents informed that a pilot car is in use and what to do to stay safe in the work zone, just got easier!

A brochure explaining tips for navigating a work zone with a pilot car in use was recently created by Central Office (Linda Wilson-Horn and DeAnne Rickabaugh). With an upcoming project on Route 101 in Howell and Ozark Counties later this summer, the SE District wanted to get the word out to as many residents living along the route as possible—but didn't want to miss anyone by stopping door to door.

The best way to help spread the word was to contact the post office and modify the brochure to be sent out through the United States Post Office. With Direct Mail through the USPS, the Southeast District is able to target individuals living along Route 101, surrounding side roads and other areas of interest! Soon local residents will have all of the necessary information about the upcoming project and how to navigate the work zone in hand!



MEE Zone Event-July 22

Fad Diets & Why They Aren't the Solution



Ever tried a diet program and then wondered why that diet didn't work? This month's MEE Zone event features Damien Motley from the Capitol Region Medical Center's Healthplex. Damien will talk with us about FAD diets—why they might not be the best choice for you on your path to healthy—and what might be a better approach weight loss. There will be time for you to ask any questions you may have for Damien at the end of his presentation.

Please note: Damien will be in Jefferson City, and this is an invitation to participate via video conference from your location (as available). See below for more location details.

Class Details for the Southeast District:

When: Tuesday, July 22 from 2-3 p.m.

Where: Sikeston Project Development Conference Room & Willow Springs Regional Conference Room
On the day of the event, dial 8213941 to join the video conference

Space is limited, so please check with your supervisor, and then sign up by contacting Mary Shrubb via email at Mary.Shrubb@modot.mo.gov or (417) 469-6210.

Remember, full-time employees have 24 MEE Zone Hours to use annually. Take some MEE time!

Public Hearing to Discuss Route M in Carter County

A public hearing will be held to discuss improvements to Route M in Carter from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7 at the Carter County Courthouse, located at 105 Main Street in Van Buren.

"Visitors can stop-by anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. to discuss the details of the project with a member of the project team and provide their comments," said MoDOT Project Manager Pete Berry.

The proposed project would include widening curves, replacing the bridge over Pike Creek and adding paved shoulders from Route 60 to the end of state maintenance. The project will be 8.396 miles in length and will require right-of-way acquisition in various locations.

For more information, please contact Berry at (417) 469-6242, Transportation Project Designer Jeff Wachter at (573) 472-5294 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636).

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